

**The Supporting Young Language Learners' Access to Bilingual Education
(SYLLABLE) Act of 2020 Congressman Raúl M. Grijalva**

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE

- This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Young Language Learners’ Access to Bilingual Education Act of 2020” or the “SYLLABLE Act”.

SECTION 2. FINDINGS

- The demand for bilingual employees in the United States continues to outpace our supply.
- Dual language immersion (DLI) engenders an inclusive learning environment for all students.
- Studies show that *all* students in DLI programs have higher academic achievement
- DLI is a very effective & long-lasting intervention methods for English language learners.
- Long-term participation in DLI programs is correlated with closing or substantial reduction of achievement gaps for African-American students, low socioeconomic status students, and special education students.
- Few children from low-income communities, particularly African-American children, have had access to a well-developed and well-implemented DLI program.
- Students in DLI programs have substantial gains in language, literacy, and mathematics.

SECTION 3. DUAL LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP GRANTS

- (a) Grant purposes
 - To develop innovative strategies for DLI programs serving children from low-income families, including English learners and minority children
 - To provide those programs with consistent support from pre-school through fifth grade
 - To improve school readiness of children and to enhance biliteracy and bilingualism skills
- (b) Program Authorization which sets the minimum number of grants and indicates the hallmarks of effective DLI programs
- (c) Reservation—reserves some funds for the Dept. of Education for administering the grants
- (d) Duration—limits grant duration to 5 years
- (e) Applications for Grants—Specifies the documentation that must accompany grant applications including eligible partnering organizations as well as data showing that students being served are economically disadvantaged, alignment of instruction and assessment languages, program evaluation, activities pursued that will provide for culturally and linguistically appropriate DL curriculum, methods of training and parent outreach, and others as the Secretary may require
- (f) Selection of Grantees—shall be done through peer review process based on: articulation of PreK-5th instructional, curricular, and assessment strategies, the extent of school leadership involvement and commitment to high quality DLI, and overall quality of the programs proposed
- (g) Technical Assistance and Evaluation—sets aside \$250,000 for the secretary to use to contract with an entity to provide technical assistance to LEAs to strengthen DLI programs and conduct comprehensive evaluations of those programs
- (h) Dissemination of Best Practices—directs the Secretary to promulgate information on model programs and materials that are developed with these grants
- (i) Authorization of funding--\$15,000,000 for 2021 and the succeeding 4 fiscal years
- (j) Definitions